



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

November 30, 2009

Mr. Edwin Plaza  
Village President  
Village of Lake in the Hills  
600 Harvest Gate  
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

**Re: Goose Lake Forebay Mechanical Dredging Project - Lake in the Hills**  
**Project Number: 1003721**  
**County: McHenry**

Dear Mr. Plaza:

The Department received this proposed action, located in Township 43 North, Range 8 East, Sections 21 and 28 from SEC, Group, Inc., for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

This proposed action, mechanical dredging of approximately 1,500 cubic yards of silted material from the upstream portion of Goose Lake, is downstream of Lake in the Hill Nature Preserve which contains records for the State-listed endangered **Blanding's Turtles**, *Emydoidea blandingii*. These turtles could be within the creek that is tributary to Goose Lake, or within Goose Lake itself. At this time of year (between October and mid March), Blanding's Turtles could be hibernating within the mud bottom and sides of Crystal Creek or Goose Lake, or within side entrances of muskrat burrows.

The Department has determined that the proposed action is likely to have an adverse impact on the Blanding's Turtle while this species is hibernating or as it travels between wetlands and uplands in the spring and summer. To minimize potential impacts, the Department recommends that the Village incorporate the following measures into its project authorization.

1. To avoid taking any potential hibernating Blanding's Turtles, dredging activities should not be conducted between mid-October and mid-March.
2. Extreme caution should be used during dredging activities by on-site personnel; all on-site personnel should be educated about this species before work begins. Photos of adults and juveniles should be distributed and the site management plan for responding to turtle encounters should be discussed at any pre-dredging meetings.
3. If possible, crews should sift the dredge material to ensure it does not contain any juvenile or adult Blanding's Turtles. If this species is encountered, immediately contact the Department's District Heritage Biologist, Brad Semel (815/675-2386) and the McHenry County Conservation District's Wildlife Ecologist (815/653-2297).
4. If dredging occurs after mid-March, biological surveys for this species may be necessary since there is the likelihood these turtles could be moving out of water and onto land to forage or seek mates. The best time to survey is June, but it

can be done in July. If found, incidental take authorization, which would result in a conservation plan for the species, may be necessary. The Illinois Natural History Survey staff can assist with explaining the best survey methods.

5. If dredging occurs after mid-March, exclusionary (silt) fencing should be in place around upland portion of the work zone, by the end of March, and maintained, and inspected, through October. Fencing should be dug deep into ground and be placed around the terrestrial zone to prevent turtles from entering construction zone from offsite, and to learn whether any already exist onsite.
6. Trenches and excavations should be routinely inspected each morning before each work day to ensure no turtles have become trapped, as well as be covered each evening.

Consultation on the part of the Department is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the County must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:

- Allow the action to proceed as originally proposed;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered, the proposed action is modified, or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas re identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Cordially,

Kathi Davis  
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Division of Ecosystems & Environment  
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enclosure

cc: Mike Redmer, USFWS  
Brad Semel, IDNR/Region II/Restoration Ecology  
Ray Eisbrener, IDNR/Region II/Wildlife  
Mike Dreslik, Illinois Natural History Survey  
Elizabeth Kessler, McHenry County Conservation District  
Dave Van Camp, SEC Group, Inc.  
Cindy Skrukud, McHenry County Defenders/1075.70  
Lisa Haderlein, Land Conservancy of McHenry County/1075.70